

THE STROBE

THE NEWSPAPER OF FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE

Issue 1

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8 Pages

96 - 97 school year declared "Year of the Citizen"

by Vanessa Manni
News Editor

One year ago as Fitchburg State College President Michael Riccards announced "The Year of the Student" theme, it was clear in the minds of all that students would finally be recognized and appreciated.

On September 3, 1996, President Riccards declared in his Convocation speech that the upcoming year shall explore and celebrate what it means to be a good citizen. In this formal address to the college, President Riccards announced that "The Year of the Citizen" will focus on a series of efforts and activities to enrich that designation. Riccards encouraged all students to become actively involved, as it must be remembered that true citizens are not spectators. Riccards offers that we are more occupied with fulfilling our own needs, and striving for our own dreams that we neglect to see the need for new common ground between people. He explains that Massachusetts was, at one point in time, referred to as The Common-

wealth of Massachusetts. Therefore, we must as students, adults, and citizens, venture to find these commonalities in our goals to discover the true meaning of citizenship.

Anne E. Coyne, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs will chair a campus committee dedicated to developing and executing different programs that will be offered. Coyne stated, "That the goal of "The Year of the Citizen" is to educate students and faculty on what it means to be a good citizen both on and off campus."

According to Coyne, the first major program to be instated will be the "Rock The Vote" campaign, which will be coordinated by Debbie Quinlan of Residence Life. A radio station will be coming to the campus to promote and process voter registration and discuss the importance of our vote, as students and citizens, in the upcoming election.

Also, the committee will kick off a major community service drive in the next few weeks. "It is well known that many of the students and faculty already participate in community ser-

vice," said Coyne. "The specific details have not yet been ironed out, but the goal is to encourage the campus population to complete a certain number of hours of community service." The key notion in this program is recognition. In coordinating community service as a campus-wide effort, Fitchburg State College will be able to recognize and commend the good citizenship of individuals."

In addition, a program will be carried out in the residence halls on how to be an active citizen in the residence community, as well as being a good neighbor, both on and off-campus. Issues such as noise control and general lack of consideration will be addressed, along with other issues that



President Michael Riccards
students face in their daily routines as citizens.

"The Year of the Citizen" will also incorporate the organization of various Earth Day clean up projects for the spring semester.

The curriculum for the Freshman Foundation theme, titled, "The rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship,"

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Hammond art gallery brings diversity to FSC

by Vanessa Manni
News Editor

The Hammond Art Gallery has become a mecca for diverse and cultural art forms on the Fitchburg State College campus. The gallery provides students, faculty, and professional artists a setting to express themselves and their ideas through art.

The Hammond Art Gallery, which opened in 1976, was named after John Hammond. Holding anywhere from 4-6 exhibits per year, the gallery has hosted over one hundred artists during the past 20 years, including students, faculty, and professional artists.

According to Tiffany Davis, Student Intern and Graphic Arts major, The Hammond Art Gallery Committee was formed last year to better organize and select the artists that will hold exhibitions. The committee presently consists of several Fitchburg State

College professors, namely; Mary Chapin-Durling, Peter Laytin, Helen Obermeyer-Simmons, and Susan Wadsworth. Students on the committee are Tiffany Davis, and curators John Boucher and Anthony Greene. As curators, Boucher and Greene arrange and display the art work.

Lisa Dubose, Assistant Director of Student Activities and Campus Center, who will soon join the committee, stated that "the upcoming exhibitions are only a small part of the great programs and activities that have been planned" for the year at Fitchburg State College.

John Boucher, also a Graphic Arts major, offered that one of the committee's goals "is to continue to bring diverse art forms to the student body through a range of mediums."

The Committee has announced that a lecture series will be added to the

exhibitions this year, wherein a lecture will be given by the artist or artists one hour prior to the reception in the Gallery. The lectures will take place at 6:30 in the Ellis White Lecture Hall, and provide the artists with the opportunity to fully convey the meaning and background of their work. During the reception that follows, artists will be available to discuss the lecture and their art on a personal level.

The first exhibition to take place this semester will begin September 18th at 6:30pm, and will include award-winning artists Gabrielle Keller and George Peet, who are also husband and wife. Their lecture will focus on black and white photography. The gallery will house many of their recent works until October 23rd.

Keller, who received degrees from Lesley and Boston University, respectively, is presently an Associate

Professor at Montserrat College of Art, in Beverly, Massachusetts.

George Peet, along with Keller, received a National Gold Medal Award for their photographic study of Superior Courthouses in Massachusetts. From 1982 until 1987, Peet worked on a photographic documentary of Revere Beach which was published in *Bostonia Magazine*. Keller was also published in the same magazine for her work entitled, "The Concrete Canvas." Both artists have collections located at prestigious museums and firms, nation-wide.

Upcoming exhibitions will include Jeanne Kunze and Judy Natal, as well as the student exhibition "Visions", scheduled to take place from April 28 to June 2, 1997.

Further questions can be directed to Student Activities and the Campus Center at extension 3163.

Smoke stack gets a coat of paint

by Vanessa Manni
News Editor

The 250 - foot tall smoke stack, located in the center of campus has been a beacon to area residents for over twenty years.

As students returned to campus this fall, it was difficult not to notice the color change of the pole towering over the campus.. No longer will the smoke stack be the powder blue that can be recalled from years past.

Instead, plans have been made to paint the stack dark green, representative of the school color. The first coat of paint was completed over the summer, producing the obvious shade of mint green. The final coat will be added within the year.

According to Steve Lanciani, Vice President of Facilities Management, the smoke stack has not been painted since 1987, almost ten years ago. The best time to repaint, by industrial standards, is every 5 to 6 years,

however, many of Lanciani's bids for funding have been denied.

Lanciani added that upon President Riccards arrival last year he suggested that the school colors or logo be painted on the smoke stack. An architect was brought to the campus to deliberate the design possibilities. However, these plans were eventually dissolved because of the fact that the stack is too narrow for intricate designs. It would be virtually impossible to recognize designs or lettering from distant locations.

Thus, the decision to make the smoke stack "blend in" came about. The two coats of paint which will leave the stack forest green cost approximately \$24,000, according to Lanciani. The money for this is being appropriated from maintenance and renovation funds that Facilities receives annually.

Some of the student response to the painting of the smoke stake was

unsupportive. Eric Hanson, '98, believes it to be "a frivolous waste of money." Another student, Marcia Almeida stated, "...the money could've been spent on other things." And Keith Couto also felt that "...painting that thing is not really going to help students."

Despite these negative feelings, it is quite necessary that the smoke stack be painted. As Lanciani put it, "...it is clearly a matter of safety." If the smoke stack is not painted, rust will start to form, and eventually ruin the integrity of the structure.

The task of painting the smoke stack has been long overdue, as the paint is now chipping off attached to pieces of the metal stack itself. The smoke stack could therefore be potentially dangerous if industrial standards are not met.

Student Government Association President, Zach Darrow, offered his opinion on the topic, "I'll support anything that promotes school spirit."



Students danced the Macarena on the campus quad at the carnival last Thursday

Diversity continued from page 1

will adhere to the overall goals of "The Year of the Citizen" by exploring the notion of citizenship through literature. As well as reading Henrik Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* and Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, Dr. Irene Harris of the English Department has coordinated additional companion programs.

President Riccards stated that we have reached the goals of "Year of

the Student", and we must move forth in the "on-going agenda." As well as being students at Fitchburg State College, we are also citizens, citizens of our city, state, and country, and as we move forward in our lives as adults, there are certain responsibilities and obligations that citizenship elicits. "Students are adults," Riccards stated, "and therefore should be participating in the direction of their own lives."

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The Strobe considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length. All articles must be typed or legibly hand-written and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to a *Strobe* article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

The Strobe is the student newspaper of Fitchburg State College. The reprinting of any material herein is prohibited without the express written consent of the Editor-in-Chief. All material submitted to *The Strobe* becomes the property of *The Strobe*.

The Strobe will hold

an **Open House** for all interested students on **Thursday, September 19th** at 1:30 in the *Strobe* office, located in the basement of the **Hammond Building** across from the pub.

We are looking for:

Writers
Copyeditors
Photographers

and

anyone with Ideas or comments

If you're interested, but can't attend the meeting contact Sonja, Anna, or Scott at 665-3647.

Born with the psychic gift

Melissa Cordeiro
Features Editor

"When I was three years old I lived in Guyana, South America. We didn't have in-door plumbing, so sometimes I'd get up in the middle of the night and I'd come back and tell my family how I had just communicated with people. As it turned out they were dead people. My family would be like 'what's going on?'"

Later on, after having conversations with my mother, I had so much information on things I couldn't have possibly known about that she was amazed. I gave her information, messages I gave from these people. This is how it all started," said psychic reader Douglas Cameron.

Douglas works out of the Tea Room in Quincy and speaks of his talent as a gift he was born with. "I never really practiced it, I was born with it. Later on I knew they were dead people because they would walk right through people. They didn't have the physical form.

"After a while I became cynical about it. In high school I didn't want to mention it to people because I worried about what they would think of me. As I grew older I would lose my sense of freedom, because that's what we (as psychics) do, we lose our freedom (by knowing)," said Cameron.

When Douglas turned 27 he began a practice in Buddhism after moving to the United States.

I needed something else in my life," said Douglas. "Those inhibitions that I had, those restrictions I placed on myself, fell away. Before, because of my pride, I didn't want people to know. When I became a Buddhist I became more free."

Ten years later he joined a Spiritualist church where he gained even more freedom from within.

I had a need to study religions and practices. This is where the communication really came, this is

where the healing power came. The Spiritualist church was a healing church in Los Angeles, where to become a certified healer one has to have proof of seven healings. At this time I did readings professionally, too," he said.

It was three years ago when Douglas began his occupation as a psychic reader at Regina Russell's Tea Room.

When I do readings I don't do them for entertainment. I'm very serious with any reading. I see situations that are happening in one's life, that are happening at the present time and I see where they're going and how they can avoid more pain. That kind of information is more important to me than 'you're going to meet a boy, etc,'" said Douglas. "The reason I do it is because of the advice I give, the wisdom of the advice. That's my favorite thing."

Usually people wonder about their death. And it's common to wonder if a reader will say, 'your going to die in two days'. Douglas commented on mankind's perception of life and death.

I've seen it (death), but I won't tell them. Mankind lives in fear. People are scared of problems as they see it. We see challenges as problems. I may see near death, I may see an accident, and I will tell them to be careful."

I'm not here to direct a person's career. It isn't, 'tell me what I'm going to be, and I will become that'. That's not what it's about."

Students come in here and say, 'I'm in my second year of college and I don't know what I'm doing,' and they want me to make that decision. And I tell them, 'Only you can do that'. I can see what they're going to be and I tell them what I think and I say, 'This is what I see'."

Overall Douglas is satisfied with the gift he was born with.

These are gifts I can't explain. I'm just fortunate I have them. I will go on to say, though, that doctors are gifted. My mechanic, he is gifted as well. This is my gift."

Psyched out at Regina Russell's tea room

Melissa Cordeiro
Features Editor

Psychic readings,...it's a subject beyond most people's comprehension. A concept that's debatable amongst many. At 40 Franklin Street, Quincy, MA, sits a house where individuals with the ability to read the future help an average of 80-90 people a day. This is where one's mysterious future is revealed and questions are answered. This place is called Regina Russell's Tea Room.

At the tea room one can participate and experience the crystal ball, palm and tarot card readings, 'jewelry', and past life regression. "One doesn't tell about love and one doesn't tell about careers," said hostess and manager Darisa St. Germain.

"Palm reading is done by the lines on the hand, where the crystal ball is used as a focal point for the reader to

concentrate on," she said.

'Jewelry' is read when a person gives the reader something they have worn for a certain period of time and they are able to read off that. Past life regression is probably one of the more interesting and different types of reading. In this situation, the client is taken to a hypnotic level during which he or she is brought back to their past life, sometimes uncovering the truth behind a person's present fears and interests.

St. Germain's grandmother is Regina Russell.

"My grandmother (Regina Russell)," said St. Germain, "started out in her basement teaching classes and doing readings with her mother."

As business grew, they sold their house to buy what is now their home and business. This is how Regina Russell's Tea Room was born.

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Rick
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A&E
Editor

Experts say we're in big trouble

"Mr. X fights back."
"Mr. X proposes a tough new plan."
"Mr. X presents bold new ideas."
"Mr. X attacks his opponent."
"Mr. X defends himself against his opponent."

Welcome citizens, to the Great American Media-Democracy where your leaders are chosen by the semantic presentation from the broadcasters of the nation.

CNN, the Controlled News Network, reports to you for a Live Media Event. Twenty-four hours a day for early risers and late-night insomniacs. Selling Geritol, Depends, and fear. Fear keeps the geriatrics glued to their screens, fear of dismantling the New Deal, Medicare, and Social Security. Every old person who feels the breakdown of the status-quo is another vote for the same-old,

same-old.

This summer the news suggested, "Be afraid, because killers walk among us. They are terrorists, armed madmen and invaders. There is an unprecedented rise in terrorism in America."

I didn't believe them at first. But they told me its true. Its got to be true because they told me it again. And then they told me it all over again. And again, and again, so it must true. I used to think a pipe bomb was the violent act of an individual fool. I also thought things like burning Muslim-owned 7-Elevens and Mosques during the Gulf War was the dangerous conspiracy of hate which qualifies as terrorism. Yet the news tells me that a pipe bomb is terrorism and that anti-Arab hate crimes aren't worth reporting.

A new study reveals that the opinion polls confirm what the experts have been saying all along. We are told there is no hope for new ideas and there is nothing to learn from today's young people (because they're all stoned anyway).

I watched the news every day this

past summer. They had sources identified as "experts" who gave the broadcasters all of their information. This information made the stories more dramatic, and it kept me watching. The "experts" seem to know everything because carefully chosen and cleverly worded opinion polls support them.

These polls suggest that most of us agree with what they're saying. And, after the "experts" are cited as source material, the reporter at the studio interviews the reporter at the scene so we can get what they call "a variety of insight," which is really just two people with one editorial opinion.

I have stopped watching the news. It hurts too much to think that our Representative-Democracy has become a Media-Democracy, where a viewer is a voter and the controlled news controls you. Don't accept the television when it reassures you "we are your source for all of the news." If you believe they're giving it to you straight, you're as bent as they know you are.

Examine the controllers of the news media. They are politically

motivated individuals who expect as much from the politicians in Washington as the politicians expect from them. For example, if you were a politician's press secretary, would you let anyone into the press room who is going to challenge your authority? Of course not and neither will any modern media controller.

Don't be a sucker, don't believe what you hear, and don't let anyone tell you what is the truth. You are the only one who can decide the truth, and anytime the television presents a story as the truth, they are trying, consciously and effectively, to fool you.

Save yourself, save our nation, don't believe the hype. Help begin a new intellectual movement by showing that you can think for yourself. Turn off your television. If you want the truth about what the people of this nation really feel, forget the polls and communicate. Listen to everyone, especially those who disagree with you, and you will learn more truth in one conversation than in an entire lifetime of watching the television news.

How far have we really come?

by Kimberly White
Staff Reporter

For years women have been getting shortchanged by society. My greatest concern is for us economically. It used to be that men were the providers for a family, but that is no longer true. So why are we still not close to getting paid equally for similar positions?

In today's economy, two paychecks are needed to live comfortably, and comfortably means having the bills paid on time and not worrying about bill collectors calling your home. I am a full time college student and work part time. It is next to impossible to live on your own without having partial support from someone else. A male college student in the same major as mine will earn about \$20,000 more a year than I will. That hardly seems fair since we have taken all the same

courses in order to earn our degrees.

This is an outrage to all women everywhere, not only students. Today, women are heading just as many households as men. This used to be considered a reasonable excuse as to why men "earn" more money than women. They had families to take care of. What should society say now about that untruth? Are we supposed to live with the fact that it is a "man's world" or are we going to fight to change it.

"Are we supposed to live with the fact that it is a 'man's world' or are we going to fight to change it?"

Surveys show most married couples say the stress in their marriage is financially related. We all know that

one of two marriages end in divorce. Marriages can be saved if the financial burden on them is lifted.

Women have to work twice as hard to receive the recognition, respect, and paycheck that men receive. The situation is even more staggering for my sisters of different races. They are not only women, but from different cultures which makes getting ahead a greater battle that I have yet to experience.

We are all fighting the same good fight— or are we? Have we really done all that we can to rectify this problem? It is not going away and neither are we, so we have some choices to make. We can complain or create a change. I'd like to see a change made. Let's get involved, not only for our benefit, but for our daughters and granddaughters.

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Bang, bang we are all dead

by Rick Rodricks
A&E Editor

"Research has proven that a handgun in the home is far more likely to kill a family member or friend than an intruder," says the advertisement from Cease Fire, Inc.

This ad scares me. The "research" is there to scare you, to convince you of what you already know: guns kill.

Unfortunately, the idea here is to scare us into feeling that making guns illegal is the way to curb gun violence. A recent poll of FSC students shows that although only 10% of us oppose government restrictions on the acquisition of handguns, an overwhelming 80% believe that gun legislation would not stop anyone from getting a gun.

My interpretation of data concludes that a grave misunderstanding of the nature of gun control has been caused by misleading advertisements like the one from Cease Fire, Inc.

Although good intentioned, laws which restrict the acquisition of gun ownership are believed ineffective by the vast majority of us. Why then do we support gun control yet doubt its effectiveness?

Mostly, we support gun control

because we feel it is the right thing to do. We believe that the action of our government to restrict guns goes beyond its effectiveness and sends a message to everyone that we will not tolerate guns. This argument is a sound basis for gun control and works much better than the scare tactic of suggesting that legal gun ownership is a substantial threat to everyone.

On the other side of the issue, a legal gun in the home is more of a deterrent than a killer of intruders. No opinion poll or expert speculation is needed to conclude that most Americans would rather not slay another human being in their home. People do not purchase guns because they are looking forward to pumping hot lead into someone's body. People buy guns for protection, so they can shout to an intruder "get out, I've got a gun!" Of course they can shout that anyway, but its safer to mean it.

These are two examples of the many good arguments for both sides of the issue of Gun Control. This issue, like Abortion, the Death Penalty, and the role of religion in our state, gets confused because there are so many emotional factors operating on both sides.

Gun control advocates say any

restriction on the possession of guns helps curb violence. This is an emotional response. Facts like "more likely to kill a family member or friend than kill an intruder" seem to support this response, but they fail. This blurb comes from a statistic which shows that every year the number of intruders into a person's home who are purposefully slain by a gun owner is far less than the total number of suicides, homicides, and accidental deaths committed using a gun.

The suggestion is that if you or I owned a gun, we would be more likely to kill someone we cared about than kill an assailant. I personally do my best to not kill anyone with a gun, without a gun, or however. Most other people feel this way. Cease Fire's use of the statistic looks at people like me in a specific situation and puts us against the entire collection of homicidal, suicidal, unstable, drunk, and careless people who by their deliberate or negligent actions, misuse a gun, and kill a person in any other situation.

It is often necessary to break down the statistics which guide the stances on emotional issues like Gun Control. Of course there are always two sides to an issue. Yet, when we feel compelled to join one of the two sides we wind up corroborating our feelings with the dogma of our allies, we forget how to look at the issue critically, and we begin to accept as truth only what we want to hear.

Gun Control, Abortion, and the Death Penalty are three issues that will not be solved by everyone choosing sides. For example, rather than having an emotional response like "I hate guns, so I am pro Gun Control," we need to accept that there are facts that can challenge our emotions. Its easy to be scared by gun toting maniacs but it is healthier (democratically speaking) to accept that even if legal gun ownership does affect our safety, the money and energy costs of

regulation could be better spent.

If we continue to regulate guns, we continue to waste money that could be better spent on improving educational and employment opportunities in the areas of our country where kids are most likely to turn to violent crimes. Drug dealers are going to get guns from the same places they get illegal drugs. Let us not make laws which react to their action, but instead make efforts to prevent people from wanting to become a violent criminal in the first place. Education, not incarceration will solve this problem.

First we should stop the criminals from wanting guns by giving them better life choices. Then we can stop the cops from having guns, because they won't need them, just like they did not need them before the urbanization of the Industrial Revolution. Finally, we must work towards societal changes which lead to the standing down of the armies of the world's governments. Then we can take the guns out of the hands of private citizens. All of the statistics about the dangers of legal gun ownership pale in comparison to the amount of damage which warring armies, bad cops, and violent criminals can do with a gun.

I want to see guns removed from the world, but I am a realist. Regulation which might make you and I feel safer is not as important as appropriation of energy and tax dollars which will actually improve the quality of life for everyone. Calling for gun regulation is a selfish action. If you really cared about others you money would be better spent feeding, housing, and educating our disparate fellows than see it wasted trying to make your world .00001% safer.

Rick Rodricks is the A&E Editor of the Strobe, and will be mouthing off his opinion in a regular column until we can find a permanent Opinion Editor to replace him.

We need your help

This first issue of The Strobe comes to you courtesy of the editorial staff and a few dedicated writers. Although we can get it out on time, and make a legible presentation, we do need help keeping up and bringing it up to a level of quality which our critics expect from the FSC newspaper.

We do not have journalism majors on our staff, largely because there is no Journalism Major offered at the college. This is a good thing because anyone can have an opportunity to join the paper without feeling intimidated by a cabal of "insiders" who plan to make journalism their life's work. We do need your help, and we accept anyone who contributes positively.

If you want to join our staff, or even offer an hour or two of weekly assistance, come knock on our door. We are located in the basement of the Campus Center, at the rear of the Commuter Cafe. You will usually find a hard working Strobe staffer locked in this stuffy room, or you can come

by during the all-College Hour on Thursday and catch us after our weekly editorial meeting.

We need people to help with reporting, especially hard and soft news, as well as people to join our production staff. If you live on or near campus, you could become a copy editor. Copy editors work with the production staff to eradicate typographical errors and correct punctuation, etc. It is not hard work, and it is extremely gratifying because your hour or two a week would help the Strobe look 50% better every issue.

The beginning of the semester is the time to set a routine for yourself. If you join our staff, you will not only add an activity to your schedule which makes valuable use of your time, but you also will enrich your college experience. Think about it, plan it, and do it! We need you, and we will have a great time together, but now you have to come to us.

BUILD YOUR PORTFOLIO

Editorial Assistant wanted to work approx 10-15 hrs/wk, writing and editing for three magazines. Must be able to type and work under deadline pressure. Good writing and editing skill required.

Creative, efficient, organized Graphic Design/Production Assistant wanted. Duties include designing magazine & newsletter spreads, ads and direct mail; some typesetting and pre-press production. PageMaker experience required. Approx. 10-15 hrs/wk. Must be able to meet deadlines. Excellent opportunity to build your resume and portfolio.

Send resumes to:
Community Association Publishing
Attn. -- Tracey Doyle, Art Director
70 James Street
Worcester, MA 01603

CD's reviewed for fall shopping list

by Rick Rodricks
A&E Editor

Of the stack of CDs sent to the Strobe for review this summer, three new titles present interesting options for your collection.

"Subliminal Plastic Motives," Self
Spongebath Records
Rock & Roll

***1/2

First is the debut album, "Subliminal Plastic Motives," from the band Self. The songs "So Low" and "Cannon" have seen heavy air play on rock radio stations. These two songs provide solid representation of the band's range and talent. They sound catchy and grungy as they make good transitions between wildly driven power chords and lyrics which are more bitchy than poignant.

The rest of the album holds its own against scrutiny by having enough rock in its rhythms to prove that this new band has talent to last, at least, as long as the current phase of "revolutionary" modern rock. Self has just finished a summer tour which included a July show at the Paradise

in Boston. Rumor says they are planning a return to the studio to record a second album which might come out in the spring.

"Marianne Doesn't Know Yet," The Phoids
Ng Records
Rock & Roll
**

The second selection comes from an NYC band with the punkish misnomer The Phoids, giving us their best effort with the album "Marianne Doesn't Know Yet." This band is a generic rip-off of Dinosaur Jr. The hoarse melodic vocals and abundant guitar solos sound so much like Dinosaur that a casual listener might have trouble distinguishing between the two.

Although the Phoids have a well-practiced sound, and can actually play their instruments with practiced refinement, fans of Dinosaur Jr. will hate them. This NYC band even uses the same filter effects on their guitars as our local Amherst favorite. Other listeners who might like this type of music would serve themselves better by buying the real thing



The band Self, show grunge-rock talent on "Subliminal Plastic Motives"

"Unimaginative," Trae
Cabana Boy Records
Eclectic

Finally, we have the eclectic Trae. Trae is the kind of guy who has great potential as an idol to many adoring fans. His style of music, touted as being very original by his publicists, is really more eclectic than creative. Sounding at times like Prince and at other times like the Cure's Robert

Smith, Trae holds definite appeal for anyone looking for a modern, pretentious, crooner.

Pretentious? Yes, Trae's got more attitude than Morrissey has chin. Trae is quoted as saying "androgyny is important because it's universal." O.K. Trae, take it easy. Yet Trae does know music, and his debut album "Unimaginative" is worth checking out because it combines funk and poetic music into a collective whole that is hard to categorize.

Horrors of war make somber non-fiction tales

by Rick Rodricks
A&E Editor

Book Review ****

Non-fiction

Children in the Holocaust and World War II

Edited by Laurel Holliday

Published by Pocket Books, 1995

Anybody who has read *The Diary of Ann Frank* has felt the horror of World War II as reported by someone who experienced it. Students of history, psychology, or children's literature have always given much attention to this work because of its written testament to the power of a young person's mind in the midst of war.

A book recently released in paperback, *Children in the Holocaust and World War II*, presents many non-fiction views on World War II. Like *The Diary of Ann Frank*, this new work includes diaries of children who give first-person accounts of the brutality of the Nazis and the terrible

effect of their anti-semitic policies.

There are 23 children whose words speak in *Children of the Holocaust*. Most of the authors are under the age of 16, their youth allowing them to report events with unguarded accuracy. Each entry in the diaries freezes a moment of World War II and precisely depicts the emotion of the moment.

For example, 12-year-old Dirk Von Hilde, a Dutchman who loses his mother and father in the early stages of the Blitzkrieg, describes the chaos in Rotterdam as German bombs are levelling it. When he describes civilian casualties, he speaks so plainly of the shocking horror of seeing people he knows dead and dying in the streets that readers must fill in their own emotion.

This book provides valuable insight into the minds of children as they experience extreme trauma. One flaw, however, is the editor's obtrusive introductory comments. There are times when a brief introduction to a new diary is necessary, but other times

the editor should have refrained from summarizing the tales which the children present so well.

Also, it is apparent that most, if not all, of the diaries were previously edited for publication. This, along with the translation into English have polished up the writing, and made the words of the children less pure. Sometimes it seems dubious to believe that a 10-year-old reporting on the shooting of her dog would use the words "we are sickened by this callous act of violence."

Although this book should be read by anyone who wants to learn more about human nature or history, most readers will probably find it hard to read the real-life drama in anything but short excerpts, if at all. The thought that these are real people, and that this really happened, makes *Children of the Holocaust* a dark, heavy, and painful experience.

Yet, as the editor points out in her introduction to the book, "far more dangerous than reading about atrocities, I believe, is the pretense that

atrocities do not occur.

"far more dangerous than reading about atrocities, I believe, is the pretense that atrocities do not occur."

Of course the first hand account of children who are wrenched from their mothers' arms or people who are bombed, gassed, shot, etc., is hard to bear, but sometimes we need to remind ourselves about the danger of war and its cost in human life.

The diaries collected in this book have been previously published around the world. This anthology represents the first time such a collection was gathered in one work. Previously released and readily available works, like *The Diary of Ann*

Continued on page 7

Need a night out, Look here for something to do

Autumn Arts & Entertainment
Preview

by Rick Rodricks
A&E Editor

It looks like this fall is going to be a good one for arts, entertainment, and recreation. As the editor of the A&E section of *The Strobe*, I hope you will continue to look here for previews, reviews, and media news.

As we are a weekly publication, we try to stay ahead (or close behind) the many events which are of interest to our particular college crowd. If you know of some function which should be covered, please contact me at RRODRICKS@FSC.EDU. Also, the best way to contribute to the direction of our newspaper is to join us. So, come down to our office in the Commuter Cafe and find me or any of the other editors of the paper.

O.K., enough self-plugging, here's what is coming up around campus.

First, The Falcon Players, FSC's only student run theater organization, has already held auditions for the new comedy "Rites of Regression." Audiences can expect this production to be ready by the end of the semester, and anyone who wants to get involved should meet the Falcon Players at their weekly meeting on Wednesdays at 3:30 in the Miller Oval.

Other great and great valued, i.e. cheap, events include the FSC Cultural



The Brady's are back. Look for film reviews in the *Strobe* starting next week.

Series which kicks off its season on Sunday, September 29 with Theater Laku Paka. This puppet theater is appropriate for children 5 years and up and would be good for any student or faculty member wanting to take their sibling or child to a creative live performance.

In the Hammond art gallery, a new photo exhibit opens tonight, Sept. 18 and runs through October 23. The work of Gabrielle Keller and George Peet, two Boston-area freelance commercial photographers, will be on display. You can have a chance to meet them and hear them lecture at tonight's opening in the Campus Center Lounge at 6:30.

Don't forget that the Programs

Committee sponsors great events like the weekly films shown in the Ellis White Lecture Hall. Films run twice an evening at 6:30 and 9:30 on Sunday and Tuesday. This week check out *Happy Gilmore*, and next week, *The Rock*. Best of all- they're free!

Of course, film and new music reviews will be a regular feature in the A&E section. Coming up in film, Mirimax Productions will bring us new works from Wes Craven, Woody Allen, and a directorial debut from actor Kevin Spacey called *Albino Alligator*. Check out the *Strobe* next week when we review the upcoming Warner Brothers release *Sweet Nothing*.

RATING SYSTEM

The Strobe uses a five-star system for its A&E reviews

***** a masterpiece, one for nearly everyone
**** a solid work, a worthy choice
*** worth the price, but not the best
** not worth it
* ouch!



Horrors of war continued

Frank are not included, but the editor includes a comprehensive bibliography for reference to these.

I recommend this book to anyone. But if you read it, make sure you are ready to get bummed out because the horror of *Children in the Holocaust and World War II* is more twisted than any drama you have read before.

Women's soccer team optimistic for season

by Norman Miller
Sports Editor

The Fitchburg State women's soccer team lost their top playmaker, Ginger Boormeester, and one of the top defensive players on the team, Melissa Bourie, but head coach Ed Dupuis does not expect to be in much trouble.

"I expect it to be a strong season," said the team's first and only coach. "It's probably the best skilled team I've had to this point, this being our fourth season."

Boormeester was the Falcons all-time leader in goals (26) and assists (9). Last season she was second on the team with nine goals, two game winners, and three assists.

Bourie never got on the board, but she helped prevent opposing offensive players from taking shots at goal.

The key returning player from last year's 10-5-1 team could be goalie Karen Irving. She had a phenomenal season, her first as a starter, with a 1.55 goals against average. She played in 1513 minutes of a possible 1580 in net for the season and recorded four shutouts.

Bourie even got to play in the field on one occasion, as she scored her only career goal.

"Best of all, our goalie is returning," said a happy Dupuis. "She's one of the best goalies in the league. I have high hopes of Karen making MVP of the MASCAC. High hopes."

Keeping the offense alive and kicking will be junior Maryann Barrett and senior captain Julie Robinson. Barrett set a FSC single season record for goals last season with 12, while Robinson established herself as a

legitimate scoring threat with six goals and a team leading six assists.

Marie McKenna will also help on the offensive end. She contributed four goals last season.

The problem with the player replacing Boormeester is inexperience, as freshman Kristen Denecour from Kingston, Rhode Island will take Boormeester's spot on the field.

The key is to get our young girls to mix in with the older girls," said Dupuis.

The defense, despite the loss of Bourie, is still expected to be strong. Senior captain Andi Kane and junior captain Cory Larkin are expected to anchor the defense. Stepping in for Bourie will be another freshman, Laura Brown.

I'm expecting a lot from her," Dupuis said. "She's very talented."

One point of concern for FSC lies within the last three games of the past season, during which the team went winless.

According to Dupuis that had to do with the teams they were playing. They took the MASCAC champion, Bridgewater State, into overtime, losing 3-1. They took on Salem State on a soggy Elliot Field, where the game was called with 15 minutes remaining, a 5-0 loss.

The playoff game they lost to Curry came almost a week after the regular season was over. The playoff bid was unexpected, and Curry was the eventual tournament winner. The Lady Falcons fell 4-2, despite peppering the goal in the last 10 minutes, including six corner kicks in the last two minutes.

Also in need of improvement is
Continued on page 8

Field hockey starts young

by Norman Miller
Sports Editor

Like the Boston Celtics, the Fitchburg State field hockey team had its own version of the "Big Three."

Unfortunately, like the Celtics, FSC couldn't keep the "Big Three" forever as co-captains Wendy Gagliani and Meredith Hertel, along with field leader Tina Leger, have graduated.

With their departure the Falcons lose a combined 19 goals (12 by Gagliani) and 12 assists (six by Gagliani). With the loss of Leger goes the teams best stick handler.

"Our offense won't be as fast as last year," said fourth-year coach Lisa Valardi. "We're young, it'll take a while to get to know each other."

This year, Fitchburg State will look to the defensive side of the field for leadership. FSC's lone senior will be Tiffany Davis, a four-year starter at fullback and a co-captain. She'll be the anchor to a solid returning backfield, which includes sweeper Mary Baker and goalie Dianne Marshall. Newcomer April Whitson will help out with the defense.

Marshall was an All-MASCAC second team selection last year with a 0.84 goals against average.

"Defensively, we'll be very strong," said Valardi. "They'll lead us while our offense gets ready."

According to Valardi, having a strong defense is more important than

ever because league rules have changed. Now there is no offsides, making the game more offense orientated.

The Falcons will need someone to step up on the offensive end. Of last years top five scorers, only one is returning - co-captain Ashley Aube, who scored five goals, four of which were in overtime.

At the end of last season, it looked as if the offense would have more experience. But Kristen Hogan and Yuriko Seki are not returning. Hogan was a scoring machine early last season, knocking in five goals in five games before getting injured for the season. Seki had good stick handling skills,

Junior Eileen Lavey, a solid midfield player, is expected to help out on offense. Valardi also said freshman Sarah Clarke will need to help out on offense.

"She likes the glory," joked Valardi about Aube's overtime heroics. "We hope for her to step up big time, her and Sarah Clarke."

Valardi predicts a middle-of-the-pack finish for her team. She said the league has improved, and teams such as Bridgewater State and Westfield State should be at the head of the pack this season.

"It'll be tough, we don't have much experience," said Valardi. "We should grow and mature as the season goes along, as we build our confidence."

Game of the week

The football team will seek their first win of the season when they take on the FSC, Framingham State College in a league matchup. The game is Fitchburg's home opener, and will be at 1 p.m., Saturday at Elliot Field.

Celebrating baseball: New England's boys of summer

by Michael J. Porier
Assistant Sports Editor

This summer I took on the daunting task of attending every minor league ballpark in New England, driving numerous hours, eating numerous hot-dogs and dancing the Macarena at least a half dozen times.

Excluding the Northeast and Cape Cod leagues, which have no major league affiliations, I attended eleven different games in eight different cities. I drove through all six New England states, including New Hampshire, which served as a bridge from Vermont to Maine.

I hadn't been to minor league baseball since the Maine Guides (a New York Yankees farm team) played up at Old Orchard Beach," said Andrew Day, a Fitchburg State College junior. "I went to a Norwich Navigators-Portland Seadogs game this summer and had an excellent time."

Unlike Major league baseball, ticket prices for minor league games are about one-third the price. In one instance I managed to buy two field-box seats to see a doubleheader in New Britain for only \$14.

Another appeal of the minors is the mascots. Between eight teams, I saw seven mascots, including Canagator of the Lowell Spinners and Slugger the Seadog of the Portland Seadogs.

Various promotions, along with the ticket prices and the mascots, are used to increase attendance. This includes

autographed programs and numbered ticket stubs to a version of "Let's Make a Deal," all initiated to help keep the fans interested during slow moments of the game.

The personal highlight of the trip for me was the game I witnessed in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. I played for the Mets in 1989, and this summer was my first trip to Wahconah Park in seven years. It was probably the best game I saw this summer as the Mets defeated the Utica Blue Sox 4-3, with a two-run rally in the ninth inning.

The newest addition to New England minor league baseball this summer, the Lowell Spinners, opened their season on June 24 against the Mets. In attendance were Governor William Weld and former Red Sox greats Johnny Pesky and Bob Stanley. Only an hour away from Fitchburg, the Spinners drew well in their first year, and will be moving into a new park next summer.

I really enjoyed the convenience of going to Lowell this summer," said John Eisner, FSC '92. "I went to three games this year, and with the new park I'll probably go to more games next summer."

There has been talk of minor league baseball coming to either Springfield, Worcester or Nashua, New Hampshire in the near future. I know next summer I will be out there, buying my peanuts and crackerjacks, rooting for the home team, and enjoying myself, as always, at the old ball game.

Recent Results

Football starts off 0-1 after a 40-8 loss to Curry College. Running back Paul Parisi set a career high in rushing with 90 yards.

Women's Soccer won their opener to go 1-0, with a 1-0 win over Anna Maria College. Anna Soderburg scored the game winner,

Men's Soccer is off to a 0-2 start after losing 3-1 to WPI, and 4-0 to Clark University.

Field Hockey also had an unsuccessful start, going 0-1 with a 6-1 loss to Keene State.

Volleyball loss once and won once to go 1-1. They lost 3-0 to Brandeis University, but came back to beat Daniel Webster 3-0.

Women's Cross Country finished 12 out of 20 teams in their first meet, the Brandeis Invitational Freshman, Amy Taylor was FSC's top finisher at 73.

Men's Cross Country finished 11 out of 15 in the same tournament, with Jeff McCarthy the Falcons top finisher, finishing in 90th place.

Women's soccer continued

their league record, where they finished fourth with a 2-3-1 record. Making it even harder to improve on that record, Dupuis said, is that the MASCAC has improved immensely from last season.

We beat some teams that we had no right to beat, we beat some strong teams," said Dupuis. "It's going to

very tough. It looks very tough in the league. Pretty even. But I have a lot of inexperience on this team."

Most importantly for Dupuis, he said, is for his team to have fun.

I want to win more than anyone else, more than my players," said Dupuis. "But I don't want to win at the expense of my players fun. I want them to have fun."